

USDA-SCS  
Section II-E  
Area 13

Ector  
Crane

SANDY LOAM  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION  
Dester Grassland PE 10-19

Land Resource Area: Trans-Pecos

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occupies nearly level to gently sloping upland areas. Slopes range from 0 to 3 percent.
2. SOILS:
  - a. The soils are deep with brown to reddish brown fine sandy loam surfaces 7 to 12 inches thick and red to reddish brown sandy clay loam subsoils. Permeability is moderate and surface runoff is slow. Wind erosion hazards are slight to moderate.
  - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:  
Sharvana fine sandy loam  
Faskin fine sandy loam  
Douro fine sandy loam  
Ratliff
  - c. Specific type site location:  
Scarbauer Edison Ranch - 2 miles NW of headquarters.
3. CLIMATE: See Field Office Climatic Description
4. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. The climax plant community is a mid-grass prairie. Predominant grass is black grama. Plains bristlegrass is important in disturbed areas and mesa dropseed is significant in sandier areas. Sideoats grama, Arizona cottontop occur in more favorable areas. Grasses made up 90% of the total yield of the site.

<u>Relative Percentage</u>			
<u>Grasses</u>	<u>90%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>5%</u>
Black grama	25	Catclaw	<u>Forbs</u>
Mesa dropseed	15	Four-winged	Gaura
Plains bristlegrass	10	saltbush	Trailing ratany
Cane bluestem	10		Heath aster
Blue grama	5		Prairie clover
Sideoats grama	5		Halfshrub primrose
Arizona cottontop	5		
Bush muhly	5		
Fall witchgrass	5		
Wrights and purple threeawn	5		

- b. As the site delines, black grama increases; sideoats and blue grama decrease. Percentages of mesa dropseed and plains bristlegrass increase. Hooded windmillgrass and Reverchon panicum invade rapidly. Woody species such as mesquite, yucca, and prickly pear cactus appear and broom snakeweed begins to show up after dry season. Under extreme conditions, this site will be a dense mesquite thicket with soil blown out between the trees, giving it a hummocky appearance. In this condition, it appears sandier than it really is.
- c. Approximate annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 650 pounds per acre in low rainfall years to 1850 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in normal rainfall years.
5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site provides an excellent home for the quail and dove. The plains bristlegrass, bristle panicum and native forbs such as croton provide food. Woody invaders now on the site provide adequate cover. The site in excellent condition could support prairie chicken.
6. AESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: The terrain on this site is flat to gently rolling. The site is dominated primarily by range grasses and has been invaded by mesquite. Following spring rains the site is dotted with patches of colorful forbs.
7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS:  
Good permeability on these moderately deep sandy loam soils along with nearly level to gently rolling terrain minimizes the water erosion hazard.

8. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. Condition Class	Percentage Climax Vegetation	AU/SEC	AC/AU/YR
Excellent	76-100	16-21	30-40
Good	51-75	13-18	36-49
Fair	26-50	6-14	45-106
Poor	0-25	7 or less	91

  

b. Seeded areas	Percent Ground Cover	AU/AC/YR
	100-76	75-51
	25-40	32-64
	16-25	10-20
All Seedings	50-26	25-0
	53-106	91
	6-12	7 AU/SEC/YL

9. RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES:

a. Cattle		
<u>PRIMARY*</u>	<u>SECONDARY*</u>	<u>LOW VALUE*</u>
Blue grama	Sand dropseed	Annual threeawn
Black grama	Cane bluestem	Mesquite
Plains bristlegrass	Arizona cottontop	Yucca
Mesa dropseed	Bristle panicum	Gummy lovegrass
Hooded windmillgrass	Perennial threeawn	
Sideoats grama	Evening primrose	

  

b. Sheep and Goats		
Plains bristlegrass	Sand dropseed	Threeawn
Black grama	Sideoats grama	Gummy lovegrass
Lepidium	Mesa dropseed	Black grama
Primrose	Fall witchgrass	Arizona cottontop
	Mesquite	Cane bluestem
	Evening primrose	

  

c. Quail, dove, and Prairie chicken		
<u>PRIMARY**</u>	<u>SECONDARY**</u>	<u>LOW VALUE**</u>
Plains bristlegrass	Sand dropseed	Gummy lovegrass
Hooded windmillgrass	Sideoats grama	Threeawn
Bristle panicum	Mesa dropseed	Black grama
Croton	Fall witchgrass	Arizona cottontop
	Mesquite	Cane bluestem
	Evening primrose	
	Gaura	

DATE: 5/16/80APPROVED BY: Phil E. Johnson

Earl D. Archer